



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

Released: April 25, 2011

Vol. 61, WC042511

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 24

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Severe weather moved across the state Tuesday night with 14 confirmed tornados which uprooted trees and caused damage to many homes and buildings, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field work was at a standstill due to heavy rainfall, especially in central and southern areas. Some areas of the state have received record levels of rainfall for the month of April with more in the forecast. Planting of corn did not progress during the week and is approximately 13 days behind last year's record setting pace and 10 days behind the 5-year average. Some winter wheat acreage is beginning to show signs of stress because of excess moisture. Potato growers in northern counties have made some progress with planting and fertilizing.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 0.5 **days suitable for field work**. Two percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 50 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average.

Thirty-seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 50 percent last year and 48 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter wheat condition** is rated 61 percent good to excellent compared with 71 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: clearing fence rows and ditches, preparing planting and tillage equipment, hauling grain to market and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock remain in mostly good condition at this time. **Pasture condition** is rated 48 percent good to excellent compared with 77 percent last year. Pastures continue to improve with plenty of moisture and warmer temperatures. Hay supplies are rated 4 percent very short, 22 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn Planted	2	2	50	15
Winter Wheat Jointed	37	23	50	48

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat	1	7	31	49	12
Pasture	3	12	37	41	7

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	1	4	9
Adequate	29	58	71
Surplus	70	37	20
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	4	10	7
Adequate	46	69	83
Surplus	50	20	10
Days Suitable	.5	2.1	5.2

CONTACT INFORMATION

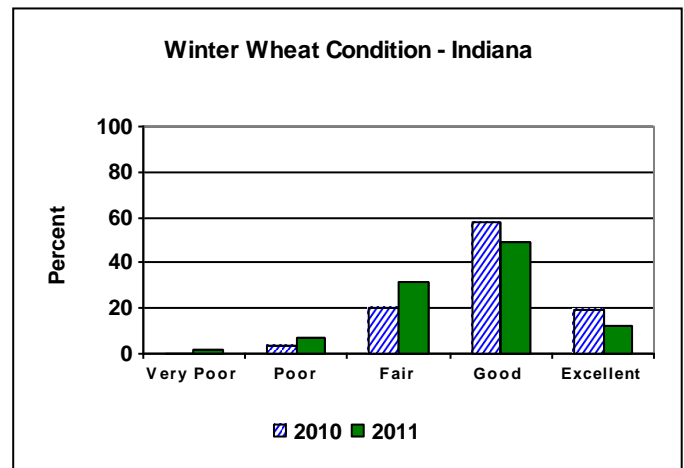
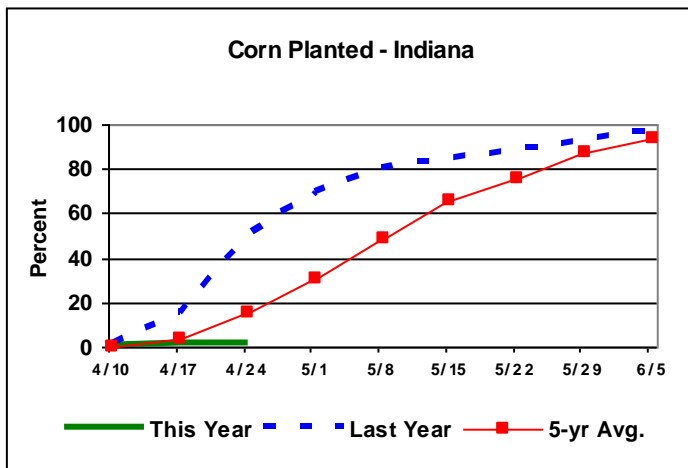
--Greg Preston, Director

--Andy Higgins, Agricultural Statistician

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http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

New Seed Corn Technology Comes With Risks, Entomologist Says

Written by Christian Krupke and appears in the April 19, 2011 issue of AG Answers.

Bags of corn seed that mix genetically modified hybrids with and without Bt toxins that kill insects provide farmers easier compliance with federal regulations but could, over time, hasten insect resistance to Bt, a Purdue University entomologist said.

Although "refuge-in-a-bag" seed technology has been approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, questions still remain over its long-term effect on corn rootworms, the main pest targeted by the technology, said Christian Krupke.

"Is a guarantee of 100 percent grower compliance with refuge regulations for corn rootworms worth a bit of a risk in terms of resistance development?" he said. "For many the answer is yes, because compliance has been declining in recent years."

Refuge-in-a-bag products contain 90 percent Bt corn seed with 10 percent non-Bt "refuge" seed.

Under EPA rules, farmers who plant Bt corn also must plant next to or around that corn non-Bt hybrids equaling 20 percent of the Bt acreage. With refuge-in-a-bag, farmers plant all the seed together. Refuge corn is interspersed in the field with Bt corn.

The new seed technology covers only below-ground feeding rootworms at this time, however. Farmers growing Bt corn still need to plant a separate 20 percent refuge for corn borers, but that will change next year with a new product offering refuge-in-a-bag for all corn pests.

Biologically speaking, refuge corn works in concert with Bt corn, which is genetically modified to express insecticide proteins from the *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacterium, to maintain the durability of the genetic traits in controlling many corn-feeding insects.

"In the absence of refuge corn, any insects that survive exposure to Bt corn would mate with one another and pass along the genetic traits that helped them survive," Krupke said. "Refuge corn dilutes these genes with susceptible ones from beetles that fed on non-Bt corn and, therefore, should be susceptible."

Refuge-in-a-bag does not completely remove the risk of Bt-immune insect populations, Krupke said.

"The concern with refuge-in-a-bag, or seed mixes, has always been sub-lethal exposure with toxic plants and non-toxic plants standing side-by-side," he said. "You could have a young corn rootworm beetle larva emerge, feed on a toxic plant but not die, and then move over to a non-toxic plant and feed until reaching adulthood. The larva now has sub-lethal exposure to Bt. That's one of the ways that resistance can develop in an insect population more rapidly."

"It's that old adage that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. We could be giving those larvae selective advantage in the long term. That was one of the reasons this technology wasn't embraced initially."

Sub-lethal exposure works the other way, as well, Krupke said. Larvae could feed on a refuge corn plant and become larger, then move to a Bt plant to continue eating. Because the larvae are larger and it takes more Bt toxin to kill bigger insects, larvae might not ingest enough toxin to die, he said.

On the other side of the issue, refuge-in-a-bag offers advantages to the traditional Bt/refuge planting system, Krupke said.

"Compliance is unquestionably the main advantage," he said. "There's no doubt about it. This way a grower can dump the seed into the planter and go. There's no changing out seed or calculating refuge acres."

"One of the other advantages with having Bt and refuge plants mixed together in a field is that you get the rootworm beetles closer together, which facilitates matings between beetles that might be Bt-resistant and those that are susceptible from the refuge."

By doing some of the matchmaking work for resistant and non-resistant insects, the ratio of Bt to non-Bt seed in refuge-in-a-bag products can be reduced to 9-to-1, Krupke said.

Refuge-in-a-bag is available on a limited basis this crop season, with more seed brands expected to add the technology in coming years.

About 65 percent of the corn grown in the United States is Bt hybrids.

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday, April 24, 2011

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air							April 1, 2011 through				
	Temperature				Precip.			April 24, 2011				
					4 in			Precipitation				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	69	32	48	-6	2.93	6		4.81	+1.96	14	65	-12
Francesville	67	31	47	-6	2.50	5		4.47	+1.51	12	49	-6
Valparaiso_AP_I	69	30	46	-7	1.46	5		2.79	-0.39	12	69	+17
Wanatah	68	27	43	-8	2.07	6	49	4.18	+1.13	16	43	+5
Winamac	69	31	47	-5	2.78	6		4.84	+1.88	16	54	-1
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	69	32	45	-8	2.42	6		4.32	+1.23	14	47	-15
South_Bend	69	31	45	-6	1.61	6		3.70	+0.59	14	63	+18
Young_America	70	32	49	-3	2.72	4		4.94	+2.19	14	55	+2
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	72	33	49	-3	2.25	5		3.56	+0.84	15	74	+25
Kendallville	70	32	45	-6	2.35	6		4.66	+2.11	18	34	-14
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	72	30	51	-4	5.43	5		7.85	+4.94	13	105	+16
Perrysville	71	31	52	-2	2.71	5	52	4.12	+1.03	13	95	+24
Spencer_Ag	73	32	53	+0	3.80	4		8.60	+5.44	13	137	+61
Terre_Haute_AFB	74	31	55	+2	4.27	4		7.21	+4.16	13	162	+71
W_Lafayette_6NW	71	24	50	-3	3.00	5	49	5.07	+2.14	14	83	+27
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	71	34	55	+1	4.20	4		6.19	+3.27	14	145	+62
Greenfield	73	32	53	-1	5.41	6		9.79	+6.61	16	113	+49
Indianapolis_AP	71	33	55	+2	4.08	4		6.36	+3.44	12	160	+77
Indianapolis_SE	71	29	51	-3	4.54	4		8.62	+5.69	14	100	+26
Tipton_Ag	69	27	49	-3	3.29	5	53	6.17	+3.06	14	69	+26
East Central (6)												
Farmland	72	32	49	-2	2.06	5	55	5.03	+2.18	14	58	+19
New_Castle	71	30	51	+0	4.61	4		8.52	+5.29	12	89	+46
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	81	41	63	+5	4.71	5		8.18	+5.01	11	267	+118
Freelandville	77	37	56	+2	5.79	4		9.28	+6.27	11	182	+78
Shoals_8S	80	33	56	+2	4.92	4		8.59	+5.37	10	177	+74
Stendal	80	39	59	+3	5.69	4		10.35	+6.83	11	227	+104
Vincennes_5NE	80	35	58	+3	5.15	4	56	8.09	+5.08	9	184	+80
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	80	39	59	+4	4.46	4		9.19	+5.51	11	198	+91
Oolitic	78	37	56	+2	5.61	4	55	9.81	+6.65	13	152	+65
Tell_City	79	41	60	+4	4.06	4		8.45	+4.60	11	229	+97
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	75	35	55	+3	4.50	5		8.59	+5.58	12	137	+75
Greensburg	75	34	55	+1	4.93	5		9.26	+6.06	14	146	+70
Seymour	75	37	55	+1	5.70	4		9.91	+6.81	10	144	+56

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DFN = Departure From Normal.

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

New Online Tool Helps Indiana Farmers Select Cover Crops

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – A new online tool to help farmers decide which cover crops will benefit their row crop rotation is now available in Indiana.

Purdue University and the Midwest Cover Crops Council teamed up to release the MCCC Cover Crop Decision Tool, which uses consolidated cover crop information by state or province to assist farmers in making cover crop selections at the county level.

Developing information for each state or province were university researchers, Extension educators, Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel, state departments of agriculture personnel, crop advisers, seed suppliers and farmers. Purdue agronomy professors Eileen Kladvko and Keith Johnson contributed to the project.

"The MCCC hopes the cover crop selector tool will encourage the adoption of cover crops by providing the information and decision-making help necessary for farmers to successfully integrate cover crops into their cropping systems," Kladvko said.

Users of the tool select their state or province and county. They also can give information on their cash crops, including planting and harvest dates, field information such as the soil drainage class, artificial drainage or flooding, and desired cover crop benefits.

Designed to be user-friendly, the tool allows users to immediately see how their input changes their cover crop options. Users can generate an information sheet for a selected cover crop that provides additional information and references relevant to application within the state or province.

The tool also has been completed for Michigan and Ohio, while other states and provinces are developing their information. When completed, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario will be added to the Web-based system.

A Natural Resources Conservation Service Innovation Grant, Michigan State University's Project GREEN - Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs - and the Great Lakes Regional Water Program fund the project.

The tool is available at <http://mccc.msu.edu/SelectorTool/2011CCSelectorTool.pdf>.

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The INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN43-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the USDA, NASS Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151.

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